

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 M-03

A-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03 NIC-01 RSR-01 /094 W

----- 128623

R 182210Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 480

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: CONTACTS WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS

REF: STATE 140499

1. WHILE I HAVE MAINTAINED A RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, ALEXEI SCHERBACHEVICH, EVER SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN BOLIVIA MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO, AND BOTH OF US HAVE OBSERVED PROTOCOLARY REQUIREMENTS, THERE HAS BEEN A CLEAR WARMING IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ME IN RECENT MONTHS, AND THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS NOT ONLY MADE OPENLY CLEAR TO ME BUT QUITE PUBLIC AS WELL. AT HIS INSTIGATION WE HAVE RECENTLY GONE ON A FIRST NAME BASIS AND ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY TRANSFER TO MONTEVIDEO HE ASKED FOR A DATE ON WHICH HE COULD HONOR ME AND MY WIFE WITH A BLACK-TIE FAREWELL DINNER.

2. THE DINNER TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY, JULY 13. OTHER GUESTS WERE THE AMBASSADORS OF MEXICO, BRAZIL, GREAT BRITAIN, URUGUAY AND THEIR WIVES, AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADORS OF GERMANY AND JAPAN WHO CAME ALONE. ALSO, THE NEWLY ARRIVED COUNSELLOR OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY VICTOR TARASW AND HIS WIFE WERE PRESENT. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY AND IN HIS TOAST THE AMBASSADOR DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE INCREASING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND

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THE US, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FOR THE WORLD. IN MY

REPLY, I RECIPROCATED AMBASSADOR SCHERBACHEVICH'S REMARKS  
ADDING MY OWN REFERENCES TO THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF  
PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST YEAR, CHAIRMAN  
BREZNEV'S RETURN VISIT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE INCREASING  
CULTURAL AND TRADE TIES BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET UNION  
AND THE SYMBOLIC  
IMPORTANCE OF THE PROGRAMMED JOINT SPACE  
MISSION FOR WHICH ASTRONAUTS AND COSMONAUTS ARE NOW IN  
TRAINING. OTHER GUESTS SEEMED MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE SOVIET  
AMBASSADOR'S OVERTURE, BY THE FACT THAT THE DINNER COULD  
TAKE PLACE AT ALL, AND BY THE CORDIAL EXCHANGE OF REMARKS.

3. I CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT THE AMBASSADOR MADE THIS OVERTURE  
KNOWING FULL WELL HOW COMMUNISTS IN URUGUAY HAVE BEEN  
CRITICIZING MY APPOINTMENT THERE AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT  
HIS HOSPITALITY TO ME COULD BECOME KNOWN THERE. AMBASSADOR  
SCHERBACHEVICH ALSO ATTENDED, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER  
RANKING AMBASSADORS IN THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE  
CEREMONY LAST WEEK IN WHICH I WAS AWARDED THE HIGHEST  
BOLIVIAN DECORATION.

4. THE NEWLY ARRIVED COUNSELLOR AND HIS WIFE, WHO HAD ONLY BEEN  
HERE ABOUT TWO DAYS AND WHO HAD RECENTLY HAD LATIN AMERICAN  
SERVICE IN HAVANA, WERE GRACIOUS BUT SEEMED SOMEWHAT PUZZLED  
BY THE ATMOSPHERE.  
SIRACUSA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LAPAZ04357  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS SIRACUSA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730726/aaaaaszc.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 140499  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTACTS WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005